

Mao Zedong—Cultural Revolution chairman, Communism icon, “red menace.”

To those facets, *The Passion of the Mao* now adds “funny guy.” In this rollicking documentary, the life and times of the People’s Republic of China dictator are examined to dispel many of the misconceptions regarding Mao, as well as to shed new light onto the many contradictions.

The film’s main contrast lies between established notions about Mao brought from history books and little-known facts regarding his background, aims, and achievements in a 25-year campaign. Best of all, filmmaker Lee Feigon uses an irreverent tone to bring the many sides of history together, blending interviews, stock footage, and hilarious animated interludes worthy of *Bowling for Columbine* into an informative and highly enjoyable essay. Smart and smart-alecky, *The Passion of the Mao* is unlike any documentary ever made on a political figure. This film will expand your mind, and tickle your funny bone to boot.

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